

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-31, 40-47, 56-86, and 95-125, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please add Claims 134-136. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (currently amended): A network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

communication means, for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

storage means, for storing ~~said~~ the device data obtained with said communication means;

transmission means, for, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, ~~the~~ effecting transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of ~~said~~ the device data stored in said storage means;

request means, for issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for ~~said~~ the device data that are stored in said storage means; and

display control means, for, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, to display ~~said~~ the device data, said display control means assigns ranks for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A network system according to claim 32, wherein, to display ~~said~~ the device data, said display control means arranges said image processing apparatuses in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A network system according to claim 32, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, to display ~~said~~ the device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on said condition selected by said condition selection means.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A network system according to claim 32, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed by said display control means,

wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit,
device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A network system wherein a first information
processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network,
comprising:

communication means, for communicating with a plurality of image
processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

storage means, for storing ~~said~~ the device data obtained with said
communication means;

transmission means, for, following the receipt of a request from said
second information processing apparatus, ~~the~~ effecting transmission by said first information
processing means to said second information processing means of ~~said~~ the device data stored in
said storage means;

request means, for the issuing to said first information processing
apparatus of a request by said second information processing apparatus for ~~said~~ the device data
that are stored in said storage means; and

display control means, for, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are
transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information
processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for displaying
corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein said display control means displays device data for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

Claim 37 (original): A network system according to claim 36, wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A network system according to claim 37, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy ~~said~~ the condition that is selected by said condition selection means.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A network system according to claim 36, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed by said display control means, wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit, device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

Claims 40-47 (canceled).

Claim 48 (currently amended): An information processing method, for a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, ~~said~~ the device data obtained ~~[[at]]~~ in said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, the effecting transmission by ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus of ~~said~~ the device data stored in ~~said~~ the storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus by ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, a request for ~~said~~ the device data that are stored in ~~said~~ the storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are transmitted from ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, arranging ~~said~~ the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ranks are assigned for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

Claim 49 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 48, wherein, [[at]] in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of ~~said~~ the ranks to which ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

Claim 50 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 48, further comprising: a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, [[at]] in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses are ranked based on ~~said~~ the condition selected [[at]] in said condition selection step.

Claim 51 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 48, further comprising: an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed [[at]] in said display control step,

wherein, [[at]] in said display control step, device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatus selected [[at]] in said apparatus selection step are displayed on ~~said~~ the display unit.

Claim 52 (currently amended): An information processing method, for a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, ~~said~~ the device data obtained ~~[[at]]~~ in said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, ~~the~~ effecting transmission by ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus of ~~said~~ the device data stored in ~~said~~ the storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus by ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, a request for ~~said~~ the device data that are stored in ~~said~~ the storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are transmitted from ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, arranging ~~said~~ the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses.

Claim 53 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 52, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

Claim 54 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 53, further comprising: a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy ~~said~~ the condition that is selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said condition selection step.

Claim 55 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 52, further comprising: an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatus selected at ~~said~~ the apparatus selection means are displayed on ~~said~~ the display unit.

Claims 56-86 (canceled).

Claim 87 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, said information processing program comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, ~~said~~ the device data obtained ~~[[at]]~~ in said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, ~~the~~ effecting transmission by ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus of ~~said~~ the device data stored in ~~said~~ the storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus by ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, a request for ~~said~~ the device data that are stored in ~~said~~ the storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are transmitted from ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, arranging ~~said~~ the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ranks are assigned for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

Claim 88 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of ~~said~~ the ranks to which ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

Claim 89 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses are ranked based on ~~said~~ the condition selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said condition selection step.

Claim 90 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on ~~said~~ the display unit.

Claim 91 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, said information processing program comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, ~~said~~ the device data obtained ~~[[at]]~~ in said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, ~~the~~ effecting transmission by ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus of ~~said~~ the device data stored in ~~said~~ the storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus by ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, a request for ~~said~~ the device data that are stored in ~~said~~ the storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are transmitted from ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, arranging ~~said~~ the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses.

Claim 92 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 91, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

Claim 93 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 92, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy ~~said~~ the condition that is selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said condition selection step.

Claim 94 (currently amended): A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 91, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatus selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said apparatus selection ~~means~~ step are displayed on ~~said~~ the display unit.

Claims 95-125 (canceled).

Claim 126 (currently amended): An information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, ~~said~~ the device data obtained ~~[[at]]~~ in said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, ~~the~~ effecting transmission by ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus of ~~said~~ the device data stored in ~~said~~ the storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus by ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, a request for ~~said~~ the device data that are stored in ~~said~~ the storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are transmitted from ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, arranging ~~said~~ the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ranks are assigned for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

Claim 127 (currently amended): An information processing program according to claim 126, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of ~~said~~ the ranks to which ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

Claim 128 (currently amended): An information processing program according to claim 126, further comprising a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of

conditions, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, to display ~~said~~ the device data, ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses are ranked based on ~~said~~ the condition selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said condition selection step.

Claim 129 (currently amended): An information processing program according to claim 126, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatus selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said apparatus selection step are displayed on ~~said~~ the display unit.

Claim 130 (currently amended): An information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, ~~said~~ the device data obtained ~~[[at]]~~ in said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, ~~the~~ effecting transmission by ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus of ~~said~~ the device data stored in ~~said~~ the storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus by ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, a request for ~~said~~ the device data that are stored in ~~said~~ the storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on ~~said~~ the device data that are transmitted from ~~said~~ the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus, arranging ~~said~~ the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of ~~said~~ the image processing apparatuses.

Claim 131 (currently amended): An information processing program according to claim 130, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

Claim 132 (currently amended): An information processing program according to claim 131, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy ~~said~~ the condition that is selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said condition selection step.

Claim 133 (currently amended): An information processing program according to claim 130, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of ~~said~~ the image

processing apparatuses for which ~~said~~ the device data are displayed ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, wherein, ~~[[at]]~~ in said display control step, device data for ~~said~~ the image processing apparatus selected ~~[[at]]~~ in said apparatus selection ~~means~~ step are displayed on ~~said~~ the display unit.

Claim 134 (new): An information processing apparatus provided with a communication interface unit that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses and with an external information processing apparatus having a display unit, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a communication unit, adapted to communicate with the plurality of image processing apparatuses via the communication interface to obtain device data for the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

storage, adapted to store the device data obtained by said communication unit;

and

a transmission unit, adapted to transmit the device data stored in said storage to the external information processing apparatus in response to a request from the external information processing apparatus,

wherein the external information processing apparatus assigns ranks for the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the device data transmitted by said transmission unit and on a condition entered externally, and displays the device data with the assigned ranks on the display unit.

Claim 135 (new): An information processing method for use in an information processing apparatus that is provided with a communication interface unit that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses and with an external information processing apparatus having a display unit, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

communicating with the plurality of image processing apparatuses via the communication interface to obtain device data for the plurality of image processing apparatuses;
storing the device data obtained in said communicating step; and
transmitting the device data stored in said storing step to the external information processing apparatus in response to a request from the external information processing apparatus,

wherein the external information processing apparatus assigns ranks for the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the device data transmitted in said transmitting step and on a condition entered externally, and displays the device data with the assigned ranks on the display unit.

Claim 136 (new): A computer-readable memory medium storing executable instructions for performing an information processing method for use with an information processing apparatus that is provided with a communication interface unit that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses and with an external information processing apparatus having a display unit, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

communicating with the plurality of image processing apparatuses via the communication interface to obtain device data for the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

storing the device data obtained in said communicating step; and

transmitting the device data stored in said storing step to the external information processing apparatus in response to a request from the external information processing apparatus,

wherein the external information processing apparatus assigns ranks for the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the device data transmitted in said transmitting step and on a condition entered externally, and displays the device data with the assigned ranks on the display unit.